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MARIST NEWSLETTER  
Marist Brothers • Province of Melbourne

Volume 42 Number 9 - October 2011



**Br Paul Gilchrist with the *Marcellin and Child* statue  
outside the new Gymnasium at OLSH, Alice Springs.  
(Sculptured by Geoff Todd from Ararat, VIC.)**

**From the Provincial - WYD 2011 - Marist Young Adult Retreat - A 'Year of Grace' - Outreach Week, Aquinas College - The Internal Battle for Our Souls - Fitzroy Community.**

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Marist Newsletter of the Marist Brothers Province of Melbourne is a private publication for the dissemination of news, notices and articles of interest among the Brothers, the affiliated members of the Province and our lay associates who serve on Committees of the Province.

Copies are sent to each of the Brothers' Communities in the Sydney Province as well as to the General House in Rome and to some other overseas Marist Communities.

**The Editor welcomes  
contributions and suggestions  
from our readers**



**Our deceased and  
their families...**

- **Br Oliver Clarke**, Karama.
- **Fr John Carnie CSsR**, Kew.
- **Br Barnabus Newman**, Randwick.
- **Br Clarence Cunningham**, Campbelltown.
- **Br Brian McGrath**, Forbes.
- **Bernard Halpin**, Shepparton.
- **Helen Skehan**, Cobram. Relative of Br John Skehan, Macedon.
- **Pamela Marcelle Monro** (née Stone) - sister of Rosemary McBeath and auntie of Br Nick McBeath (dec).

**For those who are  
unwell ...**

- **Br Eugene Dywer**, Coburg - at home, improving day by day.
- **Br Charles Howard**, Campbelltown.
- **Br Austin Stephens**, Netley.
- **Br Kevin Hogan**, Netley.
- **Mrs Rosemary McBeath**, unwell, in hospital.

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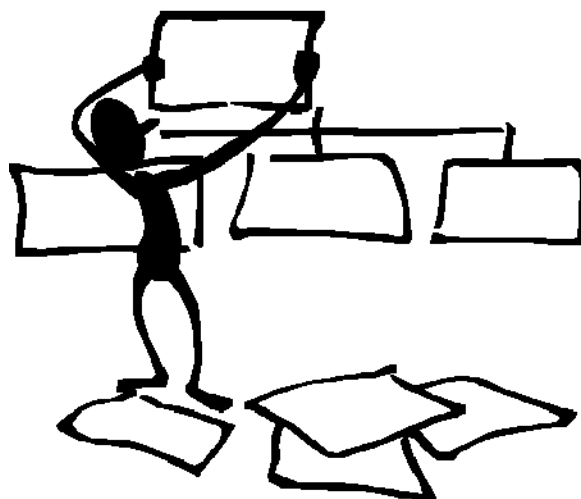
## *From the Provincial*



October 3, 2011

Dear Brothers and Friends,

The progress to a new Province is quickening and the various Committees and Work Groups are now preparing for their third or fourth meeting. As we move forward, more complications are discovered, but we still have the determination and commitment to the unrelenting pursuit of our goal and to keep to the timetable. There are so many different things happening and in mid-October there will be a New Province Progress Consultation with all the leaders of



of the various groups in order to get a fix on how far we have travelled, what problems have been encountered and what progress we are making. Following that there will be a Combined Provincial Council Meeting to identify what steps and decisions each Province needs to make in order to ensure the progress. I include some of the progress already made.

- You would have received the notification and details about the Gathering of Brothers from January 12<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January and I hope you can return the registration form as soon as possible. This is an important opportunity for Brothers of each Province to meet and get to know more.
- The Mission Council with Brothers and Lay has now met on three occasions and is quickly becoming a part of the fabric of Province Administration.
- Marist Schools Australia is becoming more widely known and accepted both at the local school level and at the Diocesan level and the Mission and Life Formation Team is now operating on a national basis.
- REMAR has attracted interest from schools beyond the Province and we are looking at expanding the operations.
- The Marist Young Adult Ministry has established a national reflection group in order to progress its development.

This kind of development is really an opportunity offered to us by the Spirit and we cannot miss this historic opportunity. It is an opening of the doors of the Province and we live these moments as an occasion for improvement, for enrichment and for expansion.

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## From the Provincial ...

sion of our mission. We live it in a climate of mutual goodwill, tolerance and generosity. We have a great sense of identity and history of our Province, but we must have the courage to free ourselves from anything that weakens us and entrenches us. We need to embrace changes in our structures, even at the juridical level. Our history is marked with frequent changes in structures even in Champagnat's time. Despite the difficulties, we have the potential to bring about a significant development in our evangelizing work.

The crunch comes, of course, when we realise that some sort of conversion must take place in our own hearts by recovering a strong interior life based on Marist Tradition. Our hopes and dreams about the New Province will actually hinge more on our response to the consequent call to renew our own commitment as Marists.

Yours fraternally



**Br Julian Casey**  
Provincial.



## Some Province News

### Opening at Sacred Heart College Middle School, Mitchell Park



I was delighted to accept the invitation of Mr Andrew Balkwill to open the new science Centre and name it as the **Rivat Science Centre**. As you would know, Br Francois was a keen scientist particularly in the area of pharmacology and carried on his interest for many years after he retired from being Superior General. It was also an opportunity to

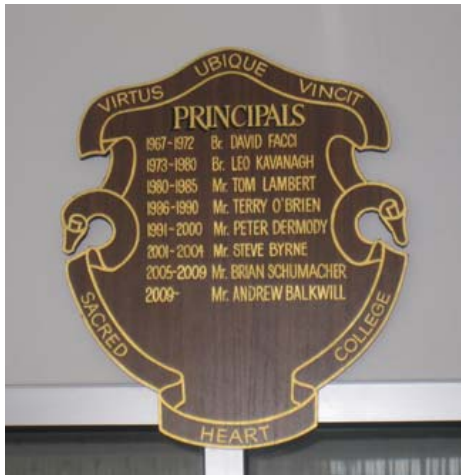
acknowledge Sacred Heart College Middle School's distinguished contribution over the past 45 years in the development, nurture and education of boys. The new science Centre was one of three areas constructed and refurbished with the help of the BER money. The other two areas were the Hermitage Resource Centre and the Refurbishment of the classroom block.



SHCMS Front Office



SHCMS L'Hermitage Resource Centre



SHCMS Principals



Br Julian Casey speaking at the Official Opening, with Fr Phillip Marshall looking on.



Senator Don Farrell and Br Julian Casey open the SHCMS Rivat Science Centre.

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## *Some Province News ...*

### **National Catholic Education Convention.**

I joined 900 educators in September for the National Education Convention held in Adelaide. This Convention is held every five years. It provides an opportunity to review the work of Catholic Education from a national perspective, and to chart possible policy courses for the National Catholic Education Commission to investigate over the coming five-year period. I was present at the first conference in 1972 at Armidale, where the idea of the development of Catholic Education Commissions first began. The theme this year was Catholic Identity and inspiration. It is interesting that this conference tackled the question about how to measure and judge the Catholic identity of the school at a time of increasing secular values and what needs to be done to enhance that.

### **Welcome to Brs Victor Preciado and Roy Deita**



*Br Victor Preciado & Br Roy Deita*

Victor is the Econome General and Roy is his assistant. They have arrived to explain to the Provincial and some Council members and Finance personnel a new system for payment by the Provinces to the General Administration in Rome. Given that the number of Provinces across the Institute has been reduced from 51 to 25 and given different circumstances in each Province, the Superior General has been asking for a fair and equitable means by which the Provinces can support the General House and its projects.

### **Appointments**

The last Council Meeting had a long session on the appointments to communities for 2012. Whilst we now have a general outline of what we think will be the best arrangements, many of these appointments are linked, so that if one suggestion doesn't come about, then other changes have to be made. Please understand that we are working to finalize these as soon as we can. However, a number of conversations still need to occur.

### **Aged Care and Health**

Bruce Houghton and Leo Kavanagh are working with the Aged Care Committee to draw up a booklet that we can pass on to the relatives of the Brothers. It deals with such things as how we manage aged care and the various procedures that we have in place with regard to care. One of the proposed documents for us will be an Advanced Care Directive, which is a signed

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## *Some Province News ...*

directive by the Brother about the choice of medical treatment and personal care in the event that a Brother is no longer able to make that decision. In the Sydney Province every Brother completes this document on a regular basis.

### **Support Fund for Need Causes**

From time to time, the Province receives various requests for small financial contributions for people or groups in need. The Council agreed to make \$5,000pa. to the National Solidarity Office at the Montagne Centre to allow us to make small donations of up to \$500, particularly for financial assistance to under-privileged people, particularly young people and those associated with our ministries.

### **Montagne Centre**

Following the closure of the DOXA school, we have accepted a request for a lease from the Sisters of Charity to establish their National Education Office at the Montagne Centre. We are also considering allocating a part to the Asylum Seeker Welcome Centre for teaching and training purposes. In addition to this we are negotiating with Damgar Investments PTY Ltd to establish a display unit and storage in the back corner of the property. We have been most grateful to Paul Kane and the Montagne Centre staff who have been host to many Committees associated with the development of a new province.

### **Archives**

Dorothy Weekes, our Archivist, has reported on her first seven months in the work. She has made steady progress in updating records from 2000 and has set about establishing a work plan for the next period. There are many long-term tasks and we are most impressed and grateful for the work of Dorothy in this important area, particularly in view of the fact that we need to have our records well-ordered as we move to establish a new Province.

### **East Timor**

We were pleased to welcome Fons and Tony recently. Fons was home for a well-deserved break and Tony was here to attend the Australian Volunteers International training and induction Programme. This will mean that Tony can receive a stipend for his work in East Timor. Depending on the report of his neurologist, Eugene Dwyer is still on the list for East Timor. In the meantime Eugene is making steady progress.

# What is the Spirit saying through the young?

Br. Emili Turú - Superior General  
International Marist Youth Meeting  
Buitrago, Spain - 15 August 2011

What is the Spirit saying through the Marist youth meeting for several days in Spain and representing many other thousands of youth of the world over?

Such is the question behind my attentive listening. Here is something I have learned from our youth:

- They feel themselves youth among many other youth; they are happy to live their Christian life as believers from the Marist charism; they wish to be involved in the construction of a Church with a Marial face.
- With grateful hearts, they love what they have received and are receiving within the framework of the Marist Institute, and precisely because of this, they desire that we encourage even more strongly the evangelization of children and young people, and that we give them all the place that belongs to them.
- They dream of a different world and they are seriously committed to its transformation, through education, pastoral accompaniment, defence of the rights of children, adolescents and youth, safeguarding the planet.
- They seemed to me fully international, valuing the richness of cultural diversity and communicating among themselves beyond the language barriers. In the simple and transparent sharing of their personal stories, they appreciated the sacred value of each person.
- They want to follow up this initiative of the Marist Institute; so they dream of an International Youth Team which could also promote and accompany similar ventures in the future.
- I listened to the message some of the youth delivered through their silence, reminding me that there are continents which should take place in the front ranks and be better heard in society, in the Church and among us. Briefly, what is the Spirit in train of telling me, what is It in train of telling us through the Marist youth?
- That the charism of Champagnat is alive and that it is the a source of inspiration for thousands of young people in the five continents; that the Marist mission is as relevant as it was 200 years ago. For this, “we must have brothers” and we must also have lay Marists – men and women – who wish to carry on the dream of Marcellin.
- That we must continue to promote and reinforce the evangelization of children and youth, especially through the MYM.



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- That we must accord children and young people all the place that belongs to them, so that they may be protagonists of their own story, and not simply passive recipients of our actions.
  - That our horizon, like that of Jesus, is the construction of the Kingdom of God, with clear signs of our preference for children and youth in a situation of marginalisation.
  - That we are invited to be more present among the young, welcoming them and listening to them: their energy, enthusiasm, joy... are a blessing for us all.
  - That the Marist Institute must be capable of setting out in search of new spaces of interior growth, at the side of so many young people thirsty for spirituality.
  - That, as Marists, it is demanded of us to present, in a particular manner, a special way of being Church, in Mary's way: the Pentecost community which, in the diversity of languages, is capable of making itself understood; an open, accepting community, which offers without imposing; which serves without looking for honours or recognition.
- Mary, our good and tender Mother, thank you for your discreet but efficacious presence, all through these days of grace. Blessed are the young people who, gathered here or elsewhere in the world, joyfully bear your name. May they be sowers of the good news around them, committed Christians and active citizens, as Champagnat desired.
- We place the Marist Institute in your hands, sure that you will continue to do everything among us. **MN**

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## Message of the Marist youth

International Marist Youth Meeting  
Buitrago 14 August 2011

The Marist youth gathered at the International Meeting at Buitrago wish to give thanks for the opportunity of having lived this experience, in which we have all felt a single spirit, a Marist charism.

We are very grateful to the Marist Institute for accompanying us, for showing us what Jesus, Mary and Marcellin Champagnat can contribute to our lives, for betting on us as Marist agents, for believing in us as persons with multiple abilities.

We are grateful for the mission of the Institute and the model it lives and transmits, to be light and hope in the situations of each province, and for giving us a model in our

lives which helps us be persons and to improve the world at every turn.

Thanks for being an open institution: the family spirit, the welcome at any time, at any moment, make us really feel part of this family. This spirit has ensured that at this meeting we have been able to continue discovering and sharing the Marist charism.

Thanks for the opportunity of being able to share the faith with other young people, because this supports our hope of transforming the world according to the plan of Jesus.

### **Attentive to the reality of the world**

We young people are part of the world and, as such, we wish to journey towards a new world, towards a new land. A land that can be at peace and where the disadvantaged can

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be on equal terms, where we can arrive at understanding through healthier and more comprehensive relationships.

We believe that it is important to become familiar with the situation in which we live and its needs so as to find answers adapted to today's world.

We believe that solidarity is the way of expressing the presence of God in the world; Marcellin Champagnat knew how to read the situations of his time and to respond. In our times, we find ourselves confronted with a situation marked by the crisis of faith, injustice and degradation of the environment and we Marists must be prepared to face up to these situations through education.

We wish to foster a change of the structures of the world, the Church, the Marist Institute,... so that they are at the service of society, especially of the most disadvantaged – in material and spiritual terms.

### **Marist youth today**

As Marist youth we feel a co-responsibility with the brothers and laity in the Marist mission.

We wish to transmit life –wherever we are– because it is the best that we know how to do. We want a living world, a world that feels, a world that loves: everything we do with sincere love is good for all.

We want to live and celebrate the faith without complexes, from the spirituality, being heralds of the Good News with courage and perseverance.

What we can offer the world is our witness, our love, our commitment and our own persons. We want to cultivate a global view, but without losing any of the vision we have of working in a local way. We want to develop this task as active agents in each of our countries, in all our movements, in the schools, the universities ... in order thus to actualize the experience of the Hermitage in the world of today.

### **To the brothers**

We young people also need some changes to feel ourselves closer to you. Do not remain enclosed in the Marist sphere, help us to open ourselves to the Church together with you, in the world. Find with us an equilibrium within the Mission shared between



brothers and lay people, but do not lose your identity as brothers; we need you to keep on updating the institution of Marcellin in an accessible and humble form.

We young people need the brothers not to be afraid of expressing the word of God to us, the message of Jesus and the wit-

ness of your Marist life. It is really vital and crucial for you to be revolutionaries and brave men on this subject in the society in which we live. We possess a very clear Marist identity, but we also have the need to feel ourselves as Church, to be able to be the Marial face of the Church of today, to sense ourselves part and power of today's Church, open to the different charisms there are in the Church.

We share the concern for the future of the ageing of the brothers in certain parts of the Institute, which could lead to a withdrawal from the Mission. Encourage the presence of the brothers among the little children and the youth. Encourage the formation of the Marist spirit and the closeness of the brothers so as to foster Marist vocations, whether to the brothers or to the laity.

### Concrete proposals

Make possible the creation of Marist youth committees at the local, provincial, regional and international levels to continue generating and sharing concerns and proposals related to the life of young people and the Marist Institute (possibility of taking part in the next Marist mission Assembly).



Commit ourselves to the defence of the rights of youth through participation in political institutions.

The new technologies are a good opportunity for making us feel part of a network, for facilitating contacts, for making us feel close to one another, for sharing, for proposing solutions to the situation of the youth in the world,... (chat, blog, social network,...)

Take as reference for our pastoral work the document: Evangelizers among youth.

We propose that cultural exchanges be promoted between provinces and at the regional level so that we can continue being aware that the reality we live in our communities is very different from what they live in other places. Youth meetings are necessary for sharing experiences of life and also for proposing exchanges to do youth work in a different situation, because this favours person-

al growth and is a Marist work at the same time. To be aware of other realities generates in us a commitment towards others and

*We believe that solidarity is the way of expressing the presence of God in the world; ... we find ourselves confronted with a situation marked by the crisis of faith, injustice, and degradation of the environment and we Marists must be prepared to face up to these situations through education.*

provides us with a global vision at the time of working on the challenging task of changing the world; this is the good news from this Meeting.

MN



## Santa Teresa WYD Pilgrimage 2011

*The following article was written by the seven young adults from Santa Teresa who went with Br Rod Thomson to the Holy Land and World Youth Day in Spain, August 5 to 25, 2011.*

We'd like to start with one of our testimonies: "Before coming to WYD, some Sunday mornings I just stayed warm in bed and didn't go to Mass. But I started praying

some Rosaries in my room as I knew I was going to go soon. Certainly when I was on the Pilgrimage having Mass every day with the others was really good, with different music and different Priests, singing the Our Father for the others in our language, but sometimes over there I felt good and other times lonely. But overall the highlights for me were in the place where Jesus was born,

and in the cave where he was buried. A special feeling of calm and just like someone was standing with me. Very special, I'll never forget."

Maybe two or three times in our lives do we have a mountain-top experience. Certainly very few of us from Santa Teresa will have the experi-



*In Jerusalem*

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ence again of travelling to the other side of the world in a three-week pilgrimage! In our journey to Israel and to Spain we met some amazing people, we saw some amazing things, and we certainly experienced our faith in new and enriching ways.

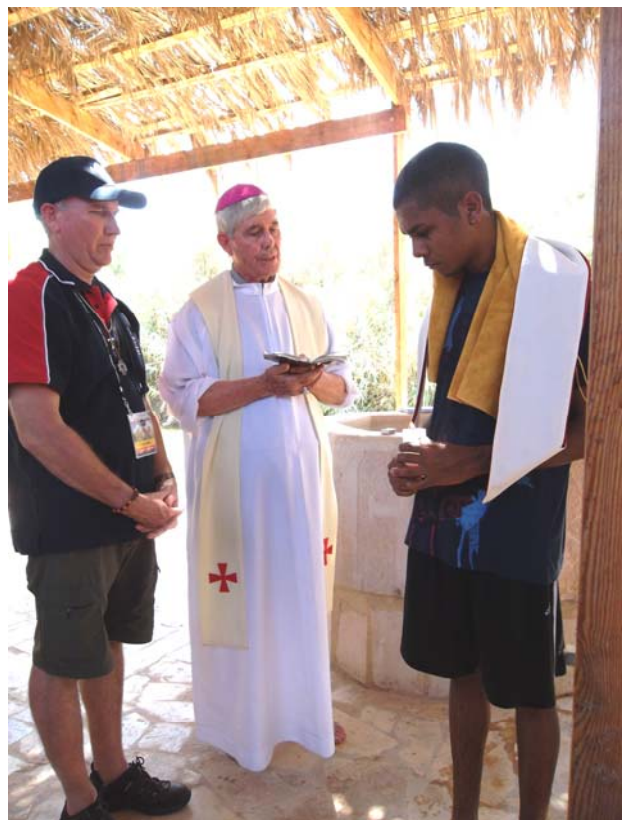
We floated on the Dead Sea. We journeyed around Galilee retracing Jesus' footsteps, and visited Peter's house in Capernaum where Jesus lived. We celebrated the Baptism of one of our fellow pilgrims, Stuart from Santa Teresa, in the exact same place where Jesus was baptised. We celebrated Mass in a boat on Lake Galilee – and danced a Jewish folk dance together! And Jerusalem



*At the Sea of Galilee.*

was amazing, as amongst all the places we went, we visited the church of the Holy Sepulchre and went inside the very tomb where Jesus was laid. And finally, in Bethlehem, we touched the very spot where Jesus was born.

But to add to these wonderful experiences, we journeyed to Madrid where after a week of activities with over two million young



*Br Rod Thomson & Bishop Eugene Hurley with Stuart McGrath from Santa Teresa.*

people from all over the world, we celebrated Mass with the Pope and our own Bishop Eugene concelebrating. Sleeping out under the stars the night before to prepare for the morning Mass was indeed memorable, as was the scorching 45 degree heat wave in the afternoon, followed by a 9pm freak storm that shook the stage area and stopped



*David, Juan & Stuart with Bishop Eugene Hurley in morning Catechesis in Madrid.*

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the Pope's talk for 10 minutes (but he stayed there in his seat in the rain with the rest of us!!!).

A big thank you to all our sponsors, supporters, family and friends. Just to let you know that this is not the end but merely a beginning for the next stage of our faith journey as young adults at Santa Teresa. Our plan is to continue to be involved in supporting the Children's Liturgy once every fortnight at Sunday Mass, as well as setting up a Parish Young Adult group that will meet monthly. Plus we'll keep in contact with the Alice Springs group and our larger

Diocesan group with a Retreat we're organising on December 9 and 10. **MN**



*Stuart & Juan from Santa with friends*



## **Marist Young Adult Retreat at Ocean Grove**

### **Maddie Hellings MYAM**

From the 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> of September a group of young adult Marist's gathered at the brother's residence in Ocean Grove for a weekend full of laughter, sharing, formation and bonding. The weekend presented the opportunity for around 20 Marists; young lay and Brothers, to meet new people and deepen already existing friendships.

Sessions started on the Saturday morning and they covered a number of different topics. We heard from Hendrika Duivenvoorden, Br Pat Connell and Maddie Hellings about their time in Spain at the *International Gathering of Marist Youth and World Youth*



*Day 2011.* Conversations around scripture and faith development for young adults also took place which were incredibly honest and touching.

Mini Olympics on the beach bought out the competitive side in everyone, as we had races to build sand castles, built forts to hide behind as we played a beach version of dodge ball!

On Sunday we spent the morning planning the next moves for Marist Young Adult Ministry and what it means for the young adults who are involved. This presented many new ideas and a few challenges to overcome in 2012. After this Father Andy Hamilton, a Jesuit Priest who had spent the weekend with us, celebrated Mass for us,

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which ended the weekend in a perfect way.

Overall the weekend was a fun-filled time

together, a time to reflect and learn. We all look forward to the next chapter for Marist Young Adult Ministry! **MN**



## ***The Water Pistol***



My five year old son squealed with delight when he opened his birthday present from his grandmother. It was a water pistol. He promptly ran to the sink to fill it.

"Mom," I said. "I'm surprised at you. Don't you remember how we used to drive you crazy with water pistols?"

My mom smiled and said, "Yes, I remember."

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## ***Express Lane***

I was in the express lane at the store quietly fuming. Completely ignoring the sign, the woman ahead of me had slipped into the checkout line pushing a cart piled high with groceries. Imagine my delight when the cashier beckoned the woman to come forward, looked into the cart and asked sweetly, "So which six items would you like to buy?"

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# A 'Year of Grace'

**Br Mark O'Connor FMS**

Dear Friends,

Recently, the Bishops of Australia announced that from Pentecost 2012 till Pentecost 2013 we will celebrate **A Year of Grace** to deepen our spiritual renewal.

This has surprised some amongst us who are inclined to see action about Church *structures* as *the* critical issue of our times.

But Christian action to change structural problems - whether inside or outside the Church - can never take place unless in the context of deep prayer.

That is why I think this 'Year of Grace' provides us with an opportunity to deepen our Christian lives and the future of our faith in this 'Great Southern Land of the Holy Spirit'.

For prayer transforms our perspective on the world and indeed our vision of the Church.

Recently, I came across this snippet about Thomas Merton:

*Thomas Merton used to travel from the monastery to the city of Louisville when he was a young monk. At first everything of the world seemed repulsive. But in prayer he learned to see. Later, when he went to town, he was astounded at how beautiful everything was. He stood on a street corner one day and it was as though the entire city glimmered with the grace of God. How do you tell people, he asked himself, that they are walking around shining like the sun?*

I think it was Ignatius of Loyola who believed that we all, witting or otherwise, have a God-shaped hole in our souls and, therefore, that our deepest desires always lead us to God. Hence, for Ignatius, the importance of beginning prayer time by asking for the grace we desire. There is a deep wisdom in bringing to mind what we seek from the Lord as we begin to pray.

Deepening renewal of the Church in Australia, then, also demands that we once more begin by bringing our 'desires' and plans before the Lord - as we discern the 'signs of the times' anew. May the coming 'Year of Grace' inspire us to do just that - so that we can announce to our fellow Australians that they also 'glimmer with the grace of God'.

Lord, give us eyes to see everything glimmering with your grace. **MN**

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# Outreach Week - Aquinas College, Adelaide

## Jack Rabl and Eloise Patzel Senior House Coordinators

The week running from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> of September was the inaugural 'Outreach Week' at Aquinas College, in North Adelaide. The week forms the focus point of the Aquinas Community Outreach Program. This program facilitates the coordinated efforts of our 170 students engaging in social justice activities. Throughout the university year, many opportunities exist for students to give to the less fortunate in and around Adelaide. As a highpoint, Outreach Week consolidated many of these efforts. The four charities supported during the week were Heart Kids SA, Oxfam, St Vincent De Paul and Angel Flight.

The week began with a fantastic start with a charity basketball match, in which the star athletes of the college were auctioned off to play an intra-club match against each other. The auction totalled \$700 for Heart Kids SA, not to mention great entertainment and a good practice match for the players.

The very next night, we held a Global Dinner. The aims of this event were twofold. Chiefly, we raised much-needed funds for Oxfam's East Africa appeal. Importantly, the event raised awareness in the student body of issues surrounding global poverty and inequality. This entailed the college population (including Brother Jordan Redden, pictured) randomly assorted onto various tables each relating to a country in vastly different economic and political circumstances. Ranging from the Australian table, replete with a full two-course meal, chocolates, wine and plenty to share to the other end of the spectrum, with the Somalian table, not receiving a morsel. Throughout the evening, various 'world events' occurred, including the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami leaving the Indonesian table slightly damp, and Brazil's environmental degradation leading to some seriously dirty water. As well as exploring global poverty, the dinner also managed to raise over \$400.

Throughout the week, we had a St Vincent De Paul clothes donation bin located right in the middle of college. This provided an easy way for college students to hand on excess clothing to people in need.

On the Saturday, we held the annual Prosh event. Starting with an early and extravagant breakfast looking over Montefiore Hill, and continuing with festivities throughout the day which allowed the donations to flow. This event raised over \$700 for the valuable services of Angel Flight.

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The week concluded on the Sunday with a gruelling but thoroughly enjoyable *City to Bay*. Aquinas College entered a team of over 30 people in Adelaide's annual fun run, running for Heart Kids SA. Through online donations, the team raised \$500, and provided a visible and energetic presence for Heart Kids SA.

The total donations to all these worthy causes far exceeded all expectations, especially considering the small student population. The great success of this week will surely herald a yearly tradition that will greatly strengthen the already strong Outreach Program.. **MN**



**The Photo at the Australian Table is of Jace Monaghan of Speed, VIC,  
Br Jordan Redden of Whyte Yarcowie, SA, James Hughes of Port Lincoln, SA,  
and Stefan Schmitt of Port Broughton, SA.**

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## ***Taking leave from work ...***

A boss asked one of his employees, "Do you believe in life after death?"

"Yes, sir," replied the new employee.

"I thought you would," said the boss. "Yesterday after you left to go to your grandmother's funeral, she stopped in to see you!"

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# The Internal Battle for our Souls

*Ronald Rolheiser OMI*



Two contraries cannot co-exist inside the same subject. Aristotle wrote that and it seems to say the obvious: something can't be light and dark at the same time.

However, in terms of what's happening inside our souls it seems that contraries can indeed co-exist inside the same subject. At any given moment, inside us, we are a mixture of light and darkness, sincerity and hypocrisy, selflessness and selfishness, virtue and vice, grace and sin, saint and sinner. As Henri Nouwen used to say: We want to be great saints, but we also don't want to miss out on all the sensations that sinners experience. And so our lives aren't simple.

We live with both light and darkness inside us and for long periods of time, it seems, contraries do co-exist inside us. Our souls are a battleground where selflessness and selfishness, virtue and sin, vie for dominance. But eventually one or the other will begin to dominate and work at weeding out the other. That's why John of the Cross picks up this philosophical axiom and uses it to teach a key lesson about coming to purity of heart and purity of intention in our lives. Because contraries cannot co-exist inside us, there's something vital we need to do. What?

We need to pray regularly. Contraries cannot co-exist in us so if we sustain genuine prayer in our lives eventually sincerity will weed out insincerity, selflessness will weed out selfishness, and grace will weed out sin. If we sustain genuine prayer we will never, long-term, fall into moral rationalization. If we sustain genuine prayer in our lives, we will never grow so blind to our own sin that we will begin to have morally exempt areas in our lives. Being faithful to prayer will ensure that we will never, long-range, live double lives because what prayer brings into our lives, a genuine presence of God, will not peacefully co-exist with selfishness, sin, rationalization, self-delusion, and hypocrisy. Simply put, at some point in our lives, we will either stop praying or stop our bad behavior. We won't be able to live with both. Our biggest danger then is to stop praying.

And this advice is eminently practical: We cannot always control how we feel about things. We cannot always control how we will be tempted. And none of us has the strength to never fall into sin. Our incapacity to fully actualize ourselves morally leaves us always short of full sanctity. There are things beyond us.

But there is something that we can control, something beyond the wild horses of emotion and temptation. We are beset by many things, but we can willfully, deliberately, with discipline and

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resolve, show up regularly to pray. We can make private prayer a regular discipline in our lives. We can commit ourselves to the habit of private prayer. And, if we do that, irrespective of the fact that we will have to work through long periods of dryness and boredom, eventually what that prayer brings into our lives will weed out our bad habits, rationalization, and sins. Two contraries cannot co-exist inside the same subject. Eventually we will either stop praying or we will give up our sin and rationalization. Nobody can be praying genuinely on a regular basis and be blind to his or her own sinfulness.

Our task then is to sustain private prayer as a habit in our lives, even if we have neither the insight nor the courage to see and address all the double-standards and moral blind-spots in our lives. What comes into our lives through prayer, often more imperceptible than visible, will eventually weed out ("cauterize", in John of the Cross' words) both our sin and our rationalizations about it.

This is akin to what Ronald Knox once taught about the Eucharist. For him, the Eucharist is the singular, vital, sustaining ritual within Christian life. Why? Because Knox believed that, as Christians, we have never really lived up to what Christ asked of us. We have never really loved our enemies, turned the other cheek, blessed those who cursed us, lived fully just lives, or forgiven those who hurt us. But we have been, he submits, faithful to Christ in one major way: We have been faithful in celebrating the Eucharist, to that one command.

Just before he left us, Jesus gave us the Eucharist and asked us to continue celebrating it until he returned. For two thousand years, awaiting that return, we've been faithful in doing that, no matter how unfaithful we have been in other ways. We have continued to celebrate the Eucharist and, in the end, more than anything else, that has been the one thing that has called us back, again and again, to fidelity.

The habit of private prayer will do the same thing for us. Since two contraries cannot co-exist inside the same subject, eventually either we will stop praying or we will stop sinning and rationalizing. The greatest moral danger in our lives is that we stop praying!

<http://www.ronrolheiser.com/columnarchive/?id=652> MN

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## ***Remove all doubt***

After a day of listening to my eighth graders exchange gossip, I decided to quote Mark Twain to them: "It is better to keep your mouth closed and let people think you are a fool than to open it and remove all doubt."

After considering my words, one of my students asked, "What does it mean to remove all doubt?"

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# **Fitzroy Community all at home, alone ...**

A recent evening meal was a historic occasion for the Fitzroy Community, says Community Leader, Br Paul Kane. It was one of the very rare times when the full community was home, just by themselves ...



**Br Afaese Afaese, Ashley Higgins, Br Simon Serero, Br Tony Caddy  
& Br Justin Guthrie.**



**Br Paul Kane, Br Mark O'Connor, Br Mark Paul, Br Michael Green,  
Br Doug Walsh & Br Pat Connell.**

# Pics taken by the *editor-at-large*

Our Newsletter Editor, Br Terry Orrell, sent back some pics when he recently passed through Alice Springs, on his way to the Third Age Course at Manziana, north west of Rome.

**Brs Bruce Nabbs and Maurie Bambridge in very good form.**



**Brs Ron Campbell and Paul Gilchrist showing off the new Gym at OLSH.**

**View from Anzac Hill: Bushfires in Central Australia have left Alice Springs under a cloud of smoke haze. Catholic Church in the foreground - zig-zag roof.**



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## **Marco Polo**

Speaking of travels, I heard that when Marco Polo first opened the trade routes to China, he was quite impressed with their rockets. Now, these weren't quite the fireworks we now know, but they did shoot into the air, explode and make some pretty patterns. Strangely, no matter where he went, there were people who made fireworks, but he had trouble finding someone to demonstrate them for him.

"Not here!" they said. ...very confusing. Until ol' Marc came upon an ancient military fortification at the community of Chu'Lai. Here, fireworks were launched every night, and Marc was very impressed!

But still he wondered, "Why here?" At the end of every week, people came from great distances, bringing their own fireworks to launch. So Marco Polo asked his guide why everyone came here to launch their fireworks.

Marc's guide replied: "Why honored Sir, ... We always set off fireworks on the Forts of Chu'Lai"

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## **The Haircut**

A teenage boy had just passed his driving test and inquired of his father as to when they could discuss his use of the car.

His father said he'd make a deal with his son, "You bring your grades up from a C to a B average, study your Bible a little, and get your hair cut. Then we'll talk about the car."

The boy thought about that for a moment, decided he'd settle for the offer, and they agreed on it.

After about six weeks his father said, "Son, you've brought your grades up and I've observed that you have been studying your Bible, but I'm disappointed you haven't had your hair cut."

The boy said, "You know, Dad, I've been thinking about that, and I've noticed in my studies of the Bible that Samson had long hair, John the Baptist had long hair, Moses had long hair, and there's even strong evidence that Jesus had long hair."

*(You're going to love the Dad's reply!)*

"Did you also notice they all walked everywhere they went?"

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